REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The word "least" used in the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 10 and in the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 19 of the specification and in claim 1, has been replaced by the word "most" in order to overcome an incongruity with the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 11 of the specification, viz.

-- As can be seen from above tabulation, when the clean aluminium powder is coated with a monolayer of phospatidylcholine, Φ_m jumps from 0.30 to 0.63, a 110% improvement. Further studies have also shown that it is not necessary to coat the entire surface of the nanoparticles with a monolayer of surfactant. When only 50% of the surface receives a monolayer of surfactant Φ_m already reaches a maximum. --

Clearly, the use of the word "least" resulted in an incongruity as it would not make sense to coat at least 50% of the surface with a monolayer of surfactant given the conclusions of the studies referred to in above paragraph. The use of the word "least" was clearly an unintentional editorial error.

Claims 2-6 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been canceled as being drawn to an embodiment no longer of interest to applicants.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Romain L.Billiet

Nguyen Thi Hanh
Hanh T. Nguyen

Applicants Pro Se

135A Malacca Street
10400 Penang, Malaysia

Certificate of Mailing: I certify that on the date below this document will be deposited with the Malaysian Postal Services as Express Airmail in an envelope addressed to: "BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENTS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON DC 20231, USA."

November 11, 2002 ----------

Romain L. Billiet, Applicant

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 17 has been amended as follows:

-- The technique consists of coating at most ~~least~~ 50% of the surface of the nanoparticles with a monolayer of surfactant molecules immediately after the aggregates have been broken down by the mechanical milling action and the surfaces of the nanoparticulates desorbed. When a monolayer of surfactant molecules is adsorbed onto the surface of the adsorbent, the atomic radius of surface atoms in contact with the adsorbate increases, sometimes by as much as 20%, and these absorbent atoms are no longer able to assume the equilibrium position they occupied during nanoparticle aggregation. --

Paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 20 has been amended as follows:

-- The minimum volume of surfactant to be adsorbed can be determined on the basis of the specific surface area of the comminuted nanoparticulate materials, as measured by the BET method, so that at most ~~least~~ 50% of the adsorbent's surface will be covered with a monolayer of adsorbate molecules. --

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1 (Amended) A method for producing nanostructures, comprising the steps of:

a. providing at least one type of sinterable precursor nanoparticulate material,

b. attriting a predetermined volume of said precursor nanoparticulate material or materials under a protective non-reactive fluid blanket having substantially higher density than that of water, with the dual purpose of breaking up any aggregates and mechanically removing any adsorbed volatiles, moisture, atmospheric gases or contaminants from the surface of said nanoparticulates or from the fresh surfaces generated during attrition,

c. separating any contaminants thus removed from the deaggregated nanoparticulates,

d. removing the protective fluid blanket from the decontaminated nanoparticulates using vacuum distillation,

e. desorbing the surface of the nanoparticulates by applying a sufficiently high vacuum,

f. allowing a predetermined volume of a suitable surfactant to adsorb onto the surface of the said desorbed nanoparticulates such that at <u>most</u> ~~least~~ 50% of the nanoparticulates' surface will be coated with a monolayer of said surfactant.

g. dispersing said surfactant-coated nanoparticulates in a predetermined volume of a suitable degradable thermoplastic binder to form a homogeneous thermoplastic compound

h. shaping said thermoplastic compound into green bodies,

i. extracting substantially all of the organic thermoplastic material from said green bodies and sintering the thus obtained organic-free preforms.

Claim 7 has been canceled.